

Serial No. 10/043,016

Attorney Docket No.: 20496/315

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A device for adjusting the effective length of a sling during transport of a load, said sling being designed as a continuous loop; said device comprising:

a carrier part, having projections located at each of two opposed spaced sides, each of said projections supporting a segment of said sling, said carrier part also having an opening through which a loop segment of the sling is guided,

wherein the carrier part carries a deflection element in the area between the projections for deflecting an additional segment of the sling,

and wherein the deflection element is pivoted in an opening of the carrier part.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, the projections are hook-shaped.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the projections have bulges or recesses that guide the sling.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the projections exhibit markings that denote a critical angle of the segment of the sling running away from the respective projection.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein when said device is in operating position, the projections are essentially arranged in a shared horizontal plane.

Claim 6. Cancelled.

Serial No. 10/043,016

Attorney Docket No.: 20496/315

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 6 1, wherein the deflection element is attached to the carrier part via a force-absorbing surface located in a plane situated above the projections in the operating position of the device.

Claims 8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 6 1, wherein the deflection element and the projections are arranged symmetrically to a middle axis of the carrier part, wherein said middle axis of said carrier part is vertically aligned when the device is in the operating position.

Claim 9. Cancelled.

Claim 10. Cancelled.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 6 1, wherein the deflection element is designed as a hook rigidly connected with the carrier part.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said device is fabricated as a single piece via forging.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A device for lifting a load with a sling, said sling being designed as a continuous loop connecting a lifting device with the load, and with a device for adjusting the effective length of the sling, said device comprising a carrier part and projections, located at each of two opposed spaced sides, each of said projections supporting a respective segment of the sling which links the lifting device to lifting points, said carrier part having an opening through which a loop segment of the sling is guided, by means of which the respective segments of the sling which link the load to the lifting device are coupled to the lifting device, wherein the carrier part carries a deflection element in the area between the projections for

Serial No. 10/043,016

Attorney Docket No.: 20496/315

deflecting an additional segment of the sling, and wherein the deflection element is pivoted in an opening of the carrier part.

Claim 14. Cancelled.

Claim 15. Cancelled.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the sling is a textile band folded or woven into a circular loop or a continuous rope.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 13, wherein the sling is a textile band folded or woven into a circular loop or a continuous rope.